

MATAGORDA POLICE 100 CLUB

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, when we go on the August break I will attend a number of events back in my district and one which I will be very proud to attend will be the Matagorda County 100 Club Awards banquet. This group provides assistance to the families of law enforcement personnel who are slain on the job.

I can think of no better example of how people can freely work together to provide assistance to those who are in need, and who are most deserving of the help of their neighbors. Officers slain in duty give their lives to protect the liberties of the citizens. Our Nation has a strong tradition of local law enforcement, a tradition which would fail without the courage and willingness of men and women to put their lives on the line by working as state and local law enforcement agents.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the 100 Clubs and the brave men and women who serve as local law enforcement agents.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER H.
BATTISTE, III

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Luther H. Battiste, III, as he retires from the City Council of Columbia, South Carolina.

In 1983 he was elected to represent the newly created City Council District One. During his 15 years on the Council, he was re-elected three times and served two terms as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mr. Battiste is one of the first two African Americans to serve on the Columbia City Council.

During his tenure, he spearheaded the effort to acquire and renovate Eau Claire Town Hall, strongly supported the annexation of the Greenview, Fairwold and Belvedere communities, and initiated the idea for the establishment of public housing on Arsenal Hill, that project has become a national model for quality and innovation. He developed the concept of utilizing the park system for music concerts, chaired the committee that produced the implementation of the Congaree Vista Zoning Overlay, and devised the policy banning City of Columbia investments in South Africa. He also co-sponsored the establishment of the first City of Columbia Minority Business Enterprise Program, strongly opposed the proliferation of community care homes and cellular towers and strongly advocated the preservation of city neighborhoods and the establishment of programs to stimulate middle income housing.

He has been praised by many in his community, and described as "one of the most articulate and thoughtful members of [the] Council." He leaves behind a legacy in city neighborhoods, housing, cultural enhancement, downtown revitalization, and equal access and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in wishing my very good friend Luther J. Battiste, III, well, as he leaves the Columbia city council.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
PARKS AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT
ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 1998.

I am joined in the introduction of this legislation with a number of distinguished colleagues.

These Members include the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, BUD SHUSTER from Pennsylvania, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, DON YOUNG from Alaska, the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, BOB SMITH from Oregon, the Chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee, JIM HANSEN from Utah, the Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, the Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittee, Mr. LIPINSKI, as well as Mr. ENSIGN and Mr. GIBBONS from Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, this very distinguished group of Members worked tirelessly to get us to this point today.

This legislation represents an agreement which strikes a balance between air tour and environmental concerns, Native American interests, and jurisdictional areas between the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service.

The bill seeks to promote safety and quiet in national parks by establishing a process for developing air tour flight management in and around our national parks.

This legislation ensures that the FAA has sole authority to control airspace over the United States and that the National Park Service has the responsibility to manage park resources.

These two Agencies, under this legislation, will work cooperatively in developing air tour management plans for air tour operators and will both share the fundamental responsibility to ensure that air tours over national parks and tribal lands are conducted in a safe, efficient, and unintrusive manner.

Mr. Speaker, let me also acknowledge Senator JOHN MCCAIN for his leadership on this issue. I know that Senator MCCAIN has been active on this for several years, has chaired a number of Senate hearings, and is moving similar legislation in the other body.

There has also been a number of oversight hearings here in the House. Mr. OBERSTAR, former Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee held a joint hearing with the National Park Subcommittee in July of 1994.

Last year, Chairman HANSEN and I held a field hearing in St. George, Utah. We heard from a number of very impressive witnesses representing different views and opinions.

At that time, it appeared that it would be extremely difficult to be able to reach a consensus on how to handle air tours over our national parks.

However, with resolve and determination, differences have been worked out and we

have crafted legislation that is acceptable to all concerned.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the entire National Parks Overflights Working Group for their dedication and cooperation in the development of this legislation.

This Working Group was selected by the Administration last year to develop a plan for instituting flight management over national parks.

For more than a year, working group representatives of the air tour, environmental, and Native American communities—along with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service negotiated.

A number of meetings were held here in Washington as well as other parts of the Country.

This group developed a basic framework for the management of air tours at national parks and recommended that Congress capture this approach in legislation.

The Working Group consists of Mr. Charles Maynard from Sevierville, Tennessee and the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains. Mr. Alan Steven from Twin Otter International located in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Chip Dennerlein from the National Parks and Conservation Association. Mr. Tom Chapman representing the interests of general aviation.

Mr. Andy Cebula from the National Air Transportation Association. Mr. David Chevalier from Blue Hawaiian Helicopters.

Mr. Richard Deertrack from Taos, New Mexico representing the Native American interests. And, Mr. Boyd Evison, former National Park Superintendent and Regional Director.

Mr. Speaker, all of these gentlemen provided the expertise, insight, and wisdom that helped us develop this consensus legislation.

This is an outstanding bill which will ensure that ground visitors and the elderly, disabled and time-constrained traveler may continue to enjoy the scenic beauty of our national parks for generations to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN KLINE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman from my district, who has dedicated many hours to the betterment of his community, Mr. John Kline.

John Kline, a resident of the Clearing community, has dedicated many long hours in the past three years to working in the garden outside the Clearing Branch of the Chicago Public Library. The garden holds a special significance both to the community and myself because it uniquely displays plants and wildflowers native to the region. Mr. Kline is dedicated to the betterment of his neighborhood and is consistently in tune with the interests of the members of the community.

Mr. Kline's plight to restore native plants and wildflowers to the environment stems from his desire to give people an idea of what the land looked like when he was young. Mr. Kline cultivates such native wildflowers and plants as: wild phlox, white aster, wild strawberries,